

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. In the Final Office Action mailed on 9/30/04, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2 and 4 under 35 USC under USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Omarson (6,283,460), and claims 3 and 5 under USC 103(a) as being obviously unpatentable over Omarson (6,283,460) in view of Beck et al (6,742,335).

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a)

In view of amendments to the claim 1, cancellation of claim 4 and the following remarks, please consider withdrawal of rejections of claims 1-3 and 5 and allowance of the application.

The novelty of this patent application is derived from the combination of a Venturi using a motive air stream to vaporize and mix liquid fuel from a pressurized fuel injector at the throat of the Venturi, facilitating pre-mixing of fuel and air into an internal combustion engine.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite with "an axial throttle valve upstream of the venturi throat" which the prior art cited does not disclose or suggest.

Omarson discloses a fuel/air delivery system for an internal combustion engine comprising an intake through which charge air is delivered to a venturi and a pressurized fuel injected into the venturi throat. However, Omarsson fails to disclose an axial throttle valve upstream of the venturi throat as recited in the amended claim 1. Claims 2 and 4 depend on claim 1 and therefore are considered allowable for the same reasons of claim 1.

Therefore, applicant requests reconsideration of the Final Office Action in view of the above the claims amendments and the above remarks and allowance of the application is solicited.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Beck et al discloses an engine comprising an EGR system. Nevertheless, claims 3 and 5 dependent on allowable claim 1 and therefore, are allowable at least for the above-mentioned reasons.